



BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, LAND SURVEYORS AND GEOLOGISTS

2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 300, Sacramento, California 95833-2944

Telephone: (916) 263-2222 – Toll Free: 1-866-780-5370

Facsimile: (916) 263-2246

www.pels.ca.gov & www.geology.ca.gov



Application Checklist and Instructions Professional Geologist (PG) Examination

The following checklist is intended to help professional geologist applicants complete all application requirements.

- ☐ Qualifying Education (Business and Professions Code § 7841): Graduation with a major in *geological sciences* from an accredited college or university. Applicants must request and submit sealed, certified transcripts for all relevant degrees or course work with their applications. **Unsealed transcripts will not be accepted.** Each year of undergraduate study in geological sciences shall count as one-half year of experience, up to a maximum of two years; additionally, each year of graduate study or research counts as one year of experience. Teaching in the geological sciences at a college level shall be credited year-for-year toward meeting the requirement in this category, provided that total teaching experience includes a minimum of six semester units per semester or equivalent if on the quarter system, of upper division or graduate courses. Credit for undergraduate study, graduate study, and teaching, individually, or in any combination thereof, shall in no case exceed a total of three years towards meeting the requirement of at least five years of prorated professional geological education and work experience.
- ☐ Qualifying Experience (Business and Professions Code § 7841): An applicant for licensure as a Professional Geologist must have at least five years of prorated geological education (as detailed above) and prorated professional geological work experience of a character satisfactory to the Board, demonstrating that the applicant is qualified to assume *responsible charge* of this work upon licensure as a geologist. This experience shall be gained under the supervision of a geologist or geophysicist licensed in this or any other state, or under the supervision of others who, in the opinion of the Board, have the training and experience to have *responsible charge* of geological work. Professional geological work does not include routine sampling, laboratory work, or geological drafting. Credit will not be given for professional geological work performed under the supervision of a Professional Geologist until the applicant has completed the educational requirements.
- ☐ Request "Independent Evaluation of Scope, Character and Duration of Applicant's Qualifying Geological Work Experience" form(s) (Business and Professions Code § 7841). The Board encourages applicants to review this form with reference providers prior to submission with the applicant's application. Only those references necessary to adequately document an applicant's prorated qualifying experience are required. Please include a copy of the Geology "[Definitions of Critical Concepts](#)" with each evaluation you request. *If the reference provider is not a licensed geologist or licensed geophysicist, they must provide their resume with the reference for verification of their ability to provide a reference.* The completed forms must accompany the application.
- ☐ Submit the "Application for Professional Geologist and Geophysicist Examinations," \$250 application filing fee (non-refundable) and applicable examination fee(s), college and university transcript(s) and "Independent Evaluation of Scope, Character and Duration of Applicant's Qualifying Geological Work Experience" form(s) by the final filing date for the examination being applied for. If additional information is requested, applicants will have until 70 days prior to the exam to submit the requested information or documents.

Applicants will be contacted via the e-mail address provided by them on their application to notify them once examination eligibility has been determined. Please make checks, money orders or bank drafts payable to the "Department of Consumer Affairs" (DCA). The applicant's cancelled check will serve as receipt for fees paid.

Previous California Professional Geologist examination applicants: Applicants who have taken but did not pass the PG examination ***within the past two years*** need not provide new reports or new “Independent Evaluations of Scope”. However, it is necessary to complete a retake application and include payment of all applicable fees postmarked by the final retake application date for the examination applied for. The retake application only applies to examinations that the applicant has previously taken and failed, it does not apply to an examination that the applicant applied for but did not take. Retake applications are available by calling the Board office at 1.866.780.5370.

Address all communications regarding your application to:

Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95833